

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash –

REVISED products from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Basic Medicare Information for Providers and Suppliers,”](#) Guide, ICN 005933, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7676

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7676

Related CR Release Date: August 21, 2012

Effective Date: January 3, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2522CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2013

Redesign of the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) – Final Implementation – And Major Update to Chapter 21 of the Claims Process Manual

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who bill Medicare carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B/ MACs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), or Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

The content and format of the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) are redesigned, effective January 3, 2013.

Disclaimer

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CAUTION – What You Need to Know

In Change Request (CR) 7676, CMS announces that (effective January 3, 2013) the content and format of the MSN have been redesigned. It also announces relevant manual changes that Medicare contractors will use to implement the newly designed document. **Note that MACs will begin phasing the new MSN beginning on January 3, 2013.**



GO – What You Need to Do

You should make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these MSN changes.

Background

Section 1806(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a Part A, Part B, and/or Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) to each Medicare beneficiary. The MSN content and format are impacted by statute, legislation, and court decisions including:

- The Plain Writing Act of 2010, which requires all government communications to be written in plain language that is easily understood by the target audience;
- Sections 1806(b), 1816(j), 1842(h)(7), 1848(g), 1869(a)(4), and 1869(a)(4)(C) of the Act;
- 42 C.F.R. Section 405.921;
- Section 925 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173); and
- Court decisions Gray Panthers v. Schweiker, 652 F. 2d 146, 168 (D.C. Cir. 1980); David v. Heckler, 591 F.Supp. 1033 (E.D.N.Y 1984); Vorster v. Bowen, 709 F.Supp 934 (C.D. Cal. 1989); and Connecticut Department of Social Services v. Leavitt, 428 F.3d 138 (2d Cir. 2005).

CR7676, from which this article is taken, announces that CMS has undertaken a redesign of the MSN, in order to: 1) make the document current and consistent with all applicable statutes and laws, and 2) to render it more easily and widely understood by the beneficiary population that it serves.

In addition, CR7676 announces that of the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" Chapter 21 (Medicare Summary Notices), Sections 10.3-31 (MSN Redesign) has been updated to reflect the new MSN designs. This update is effective with the final implementation of the new designs on January 3, 2013, and will be used to provide guidance on the implementation of these new MSN designs.

Additional Information

You can find the official instruction, CR7676, issued to your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, RHHI, or DME MAC by visiting <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2522CP.pdf> on the CMS website. You will find the

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updated "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" Chapter 21 (Medicare Summary Notices), Sections 10.3-31 (MSN Redesign), and including all of the new (and final) MSN designs as attachments to that CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Diabetes and the Seasonal Flu - November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Diabetes can weaken the immune system, which can put seniors and others with diabetes at greater risk for flu-related complications like pneumonia. Medicare provides coverage for one seasonal influenza virus vaccine per influenza season for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare generally provides coverage of the pneumococcal vaccination and its administration once in a lifetime for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may provide coverage of additional pneumococcal vaccinations based on risk or uncertainty of beneficiary pneumococcal vaccination status. Medicare provides coverage for the seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, seasonal flu vaccine is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to their patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. *Know what to do about the flu.*

Remember – The influenza vaccine plus its administration and the pneumococcal vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. The influenza vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine are NOT Part D-covered drugs. CMS has posted the 2012-2013 [Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing](#) on the CMS website. You may also refer to the [MLN Matters® Article #MM8047](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season."

For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, please visit the [CMS Medicare Learning Network® Preventive Services Educational Products](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages. And, while some providers may offer the flu vaccine, others can help their patients locate a vaccine provider within their local community. [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu vaccines.

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